

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-25 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 23-25 have been added. Claims 1, 13 and 23 are independent.

Interview Requested

In the previous Amendment filed December 20, 2004, Applicants have officially requested a personal interview with the Examiner prior to issuance of another Office Action. However, this request for some reason was ignored and the present Office Action issued. Therefore, Applicants hereby once again request the personal interview with the Examiner before the Examiner issues another action on the case if the present Amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance. Please contact Applicants' representative, Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at 703-205-8074 to schedule the interview when the Examiner is ready to act on this case.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,911) in view of McGraw (U.S. Patent No. 6,300,980). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 13, the Examiner equates Kim's television receiver 40 (including the television) in Fig. 1 to Applicants' "audio/video apparatus" recited in these claims (see page 5, lines 2-3 of the last Office Action dated March 9, 2005). The Examiner also equates Kim's pointing interface device 30 to Applicants' "external device" recited in these claims. The Examiner states that Kim does not teach the main menu image being stored in the memory of the television receiver 40 (audio/video apparatus), which is required by the claims, and thus further relies on McGraw. In this regard, the Examiner states that McGraw teaches the main menu image being stored in the memory of an audio/video apparatus and thus it would have been obvious "to include McGraw's teaching with the method of Kim in order to provide

user with a more versatile display” (see third paragraph on page 3 of the last Office Action). Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, Kim is directed to a method of assigning a serial number to each menu displayed on the television screen, so that the user can select any one of the menus independently and the user can move the cursor on the screen diagonally or along a curved line. In Fig. 1 of Kim, the user inputs the user’s selection of the menu using the pointing device 20 such as the mouse. Then the interface device 30 receives the user’s selection and controls the menu display on the screen of the television receiver 40. Here Kim’s television receiver 40 is a receiver of a television. The interface device 30 itself stores, in its memory 33, menu data corresponding to the coordinates on the screen of the television receiver 40. However, Kim nowhere mentions that this interface device 30 has any audio/video capability. Therefore, Kim’s interface device 30 is not and cannot be equated to Applicants’ “external device” since each of claims 1 and 13 requires that the external device is “an audio/video device”.

Furthermore, in Kim, the menus displayed on the screen of the television receiver 40 (i.e., the television) are television menus (see column 5, lines 44-46 of Kim) and thus these menus are for selecting functions of the television (i.e., the functions of the audio/video apparatus). However, this is not what is recited in claims 1 and 13. Claims 1 and 13 require menu items for selecting functions/operations of the external device. Thus, clearly Kim lacks at least this feature recited in claims 1 and 13.

Moreover, independent claims 1 and 13 require that the main menu image including the menu items for selecting functions/operations of the external device is stored in the memory of the audio/video apparatus. This clearly is absent from Kim since Kim’s menu data for displaying menus on the screen of the television receiver 40 are stored in the memory 33 of the interface device 30 (external device). The Examiner correctly acknowledges this deficiency of Kim and therefore relies on McGraw. McGraw is directed to providing a monitor 20 which is controlled by a conventional computer system 10 so that the display setups of the monitor 20 can be selectively modified depending on the desired display. In McGraw, however, any data associated with the display on the monitor 20 is processed and stored in the computer system 10. This is

similar to what is taught in Kim. Kim's interface device 30, which controls the television menu display of the television receiver 40, stores the menu data in the interface device 30 (external device) itself. Similarly, McGraw's computer system 10, which controls display settings for the monitor 20, stores the control data in the computer system 10 (external device) itself. Since these teachings are the same, McGraw in fact does not overcome this deficiency of Kim.

Therefore, even if the references are combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination of references as suggested by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest at least the above-noted features recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 13 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) are patentable over the applied references, and the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim in view of McGraw and further of Humpleman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,094). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the combination of Kim and McGraw does not teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in independent claim 1 and 13 from which claims 12 and 20 depend. Further, Humpleman et al. does not overcome this deficiency in the combination of Kim and McGraw since Humpleman et al. is merely relied on for providing an IEEE 1394 interface. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 and claims 12 and 20 (due to their dependency) are patentable over the applied references, and the rejection must be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 23-25 emphasize the step of prestoring the menu data in the digital TV and are thus believed to be allowable over the applied references. Accordingly, indication of allowance of these new claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

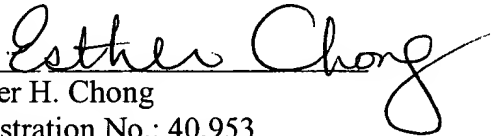
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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